

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 136

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize Marty Stuart's illustrious career in country music and honor his twenty-fifth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in our deliberations to salute the lives and accomplishments of our most prominent citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marty Stuart is one such esteemed Tennessean who has brought much fame and honor to this State through his notable endeavors in country music. He is an exemplary singer, musician, and songwriter who has inspired and uplifted audiences with his unique style; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 1958, John Marty Stuart was born to John and Hilda Stuart in Philadelphia, Mississippi. He has one sister, Jennifer; and

WHEREAS, from an early age, he was obsessed with country music and taught himself to play the guitar and mandolin. At age twelve, Mr. Stuart started performing with the bluegrass group The Sullivan family; and

WHEREAS, his love of country music got him kicked out of school in the ninth grade when his history teacher caught him reading *Country Song Round-Up* inside his history book and said to him, "If you will get your mind off that garbage and get it onto history you might make something out of yourself." Marty responded by saying, "I would rather make history than learn about it," and indeed Marty has made history; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 Marty met Roland White, who was in Lester Flatt's band, The Nashville Grass. Roland was so impressed with this extremely talented youngster that he asked Lester to invite him to come to Nashville and travel with the band to play at a Labor Day celebration in Glasgow, Delaware. At the end of the weekend, Marty, at the young age of

thirteen, was invited by Lester Flatt to join his band as a regular member. Marty stayed with The Nashville Grass until Mr. Flatt passed away in 1979; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Marty became a member of the Johnny Cash band, and in 1985, he accompanied Johnny to Memphis and played on the *Class of 55* album that also featured Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, and Jerry Lee Lewis. At the end of the sessions, Perkins presented Marty with his guitar. Later that year Marty was signed to a recording contract with Columbia Records. He released a self-titled album, which produced a top-twenty hit on the *Billboard* charts with the song "Arlene"; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Marty moved to MCA Records, and in 1990, he released his album *Hillbilly Rock*, which was a commercial success. The title track, "Hillbilly Rock," reached the top ten on the country charts; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 1992, Marty was made a member of The Grand Ole Opry. Marty said, "In the South, the Opry is a way of life, it's an institution that gets passed on every weekend. If you're going to be a country performer, the Opry is the place to be."; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, he released the album *The Marty Party Hit Pack*, and its success led to a series of television shows on The Nashville Network known as the *Marty Party*; and

WHEREAS, Marty launched an independent record label, Superlatone Records, to issue overlooked southern gospel and American roots music. He released a critically acclaimed series of recordings on Superlatone, *Souls' Chapel*, *Badlands*, *Live at the Ryman*, *Compadres*, and *Saturday Night-Sunday Morning*. The 2005 concept record *Badlands: Ballads of the Lakota*, pays tribute to the Lakota culture in South Dakota. Marty Stuart was adopted into the Lakota tribe. His given name is Young Man Who Helps the People; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a performer, Marty is an avid archivist and champion of country music culture and its treasures. Many of these items were featured in the 2007 exhibition *Sparkle & Twang: Marty Stuart's American Musical Odyssey* at the Tennessee State Museum. He also served as president of the Country Music Foundation from 1994 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished photographer, Marty had his work *American Ballads: The Photographs of Marty Stuart* featured at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. He also had some

of his works published in the 1999 collection *Pilgrims: Sinners, Saints, and Prophets*. His images were also featured in 2007's *Country Music: The Masters*, in which Marty shared his memories from his long career; and

WHEREAS, Marty has received numerous awards and honors during his career, including the 1999 Governor's Excellence in Art award for artist achievement, five Grammy awards to date, multiple BMI Million-Air awards, 1993 BMI songwriter award, 1992 CMA vocal event of the year award, 1992 BMI songwriting award, induction into the Star Walk at Opryland in 1995, Nashville trolley car named in his honor in 1995, honored with a star on Country Music Hall of Fame's Walkway of Stars in 1992, and 2010 Nashville Symphony's Harmony Award, all of these and more after winning Most Promising Mandolin Player of 1972; and

WHEREAS, Marty and his band, The Fabulous Superlatives, continue a heavy tour schedule as ambassadors for Nashville and country music all across the United States, Canada, and other countries. He also hosted the *Marty Stuart Show* on the RFD television network. The show featured traditional music in the vein of *The Porter Wagoner Show*, *The Flatt & Scruggs Martha White Show*, *The Wilburn Brothers Show*, and *The Johnny Cash Show*. Each episode featured music by Marty and his band, his wife, Country Music Hall of Famer Connie Smith, banjo-picker Leroy Troy, and special guests. WSM disc jockey and Grand Ole Opry announcer Eddie Stubbs served as the show's emcee; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, he married Grand Ole Opry member Connie Smith. They have been happily married for twenty years, and reside in Hendersonville; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with family, friends, colleagues, and fans of Marty Stuart in celebrating his magnificent career and countless accomplishments in country music, including twenty-five years as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and express our best wishes to him for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.